

Fact Sheet

The President's Fiscal 2001 Immigration Budget

2/7/00

Border Management

The FY 2001 budget includes \$164.2 million and 699 new positions to enhance INS' border management strategy, facilitating the flow of legal immigration while preventing the illegal entry of people and contraband.

The FY 2001 budget strengthens enforcement efforts by funding 430 additional Border Patrol Agents to increase staffing to more than double the FY 1993 level. Given the tight labor market of the past year, this budget also focuses on recruitment and retention of Border Patrol Agents. Funding is requested for a comprehensive pay reform package that will put INS in the strongest position to recruit new agents and retain experienced agents.

INS will continue to expand force-multiplying technology efforts by expanding the Integrated Surveillance Intelligence System (ISIS), which provides agents the capability to monitor the border from remote sites, thus increasing their efficiency and safety.

At the same time, this budget also maintains INS' focus on facilitating legal immigration, by funding an additional 269 Immigration Inspectors. As a result of the dual focus on enforcement and facilitation, INS has been able to enhance its enforcement capabilities while reducing waits for those seeking to cross the border at ports of entry.

Border Enforcement - Border Patrol Agents

A total of 430 Border Patrol Agents and \$52 million will strengthen INS multi-year border enforcement efforts. On the frontline of INS efforts to deter illegal immigration, these Border Patrol Agents will be critical to continue restoring integrity and safety to the borders, thereby improving the quality of life in border communities. In an environment of budget constraints and clear limitations, this budget reflects an increase in new agents as well as a focus on efforts, such as pay reform, to recruit and retain agents. **(\$52 million)**

Border Enforcement – Technology

The overall technology request includes \$20 million to deploy additional Remote Video Surveillance Systems, the camera portions of ISIS. The effectiveness of the agents will be enhanced by the deployment of this force-multiplying technology, allowing INS to continue the expansion of efforts to deter and prevent illegal border crossings.

(\$20 million)

Border Facilitation – Air and Land Ports of Entry

The budget requests a total of 154 new Immigration Inspectors to staff new international airport terminals that are scheduled to be fully operational during FY 2000 and FY 2001. These positions will enable INS to continue to meet established inspection times at major airports. **(\$12.3 million)**

A total of 87 new land border Inspectors will support new ports of entry opening in FY 2000 in Eagle Pass, Los Tomates and Laredo, Texas. The requested positions will enable INS, in conjunction with U.S. Customs Service, to ensure that primary inspection lanes at these new ports will be sufficiently staffed for peak travel times. In addition, 28 Inspectors will handle increased workload at land border ports related, in part, to the expedited removal process. **(\$10.1 million)**

Pay Reform

INS plans to implement a comprehensive pay reform initiative for Border Patrol Agents and Immigration Inspectors. Pay reform will improve INS' ability to recruit and retain mission critical staff. The initiative also responds to changes within the nature of the work performed by Border Patrol Agents and Inspectors.

- **Border Patrol** – A total of \$40.9 million is requested to fund a pay reform initiative for Border Patrol Agents that includes (1) upgrading the journey level from GS-9 to GS-11 (which provides additional potential for promotion while still serving in a non-supervisory position), and (2) changing overtime compensation for Border Patrol Agents so that the system is more consistent with other federal law enforcement occupations. The nature of Border Patrol work has evolved to the point that agents routinely use advanced technology and are required to engage in investigative and intelligence work. **(\$40.9 million)**

FY 2001 INS Budget – Border Management

Page 3

- **Inspections** – The INS budget request includes an increase of \$28.9 million to upgrade the journey level of Immigration Inspector positions from GS-9 to GS-11. This reform recognizes the changes in an inspector’s job imposed by the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996—increased knowledge requirements and enhanced authorities and responsibilities, including the ability to remove aliens attempting illegal or fraudulent entry into the United States.
(\$28.9 million)

FY 2001 Initiatives

(\$ in millions)

Initiative	S&E	Fees	Total
Border Enforcement – Border Patrol Agents	\$ 52.0	\$ –	\$ 52.0
Border Enforcement – Technology	20.0	–	20.0
Border Facilitation – Immigration Inspectors	10.1	12.3	22.4
Inspectors Pay Upgrades	15.1	13.8	28.9
Border Patrol Pay Reform	40.9	–	40.9
TOTAL	\$138.1	\$26.1	\$164.2